TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 8, 2001

LB 305, 543

the year before, I guess I can't remember exactly when it happened...it wasn't clear that there were federal programs that address this same issue. There are, in fact, federal loan forgiveness programs. This program would pile on top of those. Certainly the...to the extent that we want to use scarce funds to address teacher issues, it doesn't make a lot of sense to me to pile them on top of programs that are already available at The other thing is keep in mind there would the federal level. be nothing in this program for current teachers. This is all for prospective teachers down the road and, in fact, would only involve a subset of those prospective teachers. teacher who got his or her training outside the state of Nebraska or in an institution outside of the state of Nebraska would not qualify for this help. And in fact, of course, student who decided to maybe work their way through rather than take a loan would not qualify for this help. There is, I think, and I've mentioned this before as well, there is a good alternative to this, and this is...stems from a bill introduced by Senator Kristensen. It was one that we discussed and dealt with in the Education Committee. In fact, it was a part, at one stage, of LB 305, but involves tuition reimbursement. It would provide funding to people who are currently teachers, operate on the basis that at the end of your first semester as a teacher you would be provided the funding that it would have taken you four years earlier to cover tuition in the training program you So in that sense it would not involve the went through. administrative expense of trying to chase someone down who took loan but then decided to not become a teacher, left the state It would deal strictly with people who are currently teachers, and it would provide them a stipend based on their actual tuition expenses before. The other thing is, it would involve current teachers, as I mentioned, and it would involve all teachers, whether you were from out of state or from in state, decided to take a loan or not take a loan. So again, I support the motion to return. I don't think this program...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...is a good idea at this point. I think there is a good alternative. I think we should not do this and should consider alternatives instead. Thank you.